

NEWS

For immediate release



MARICOPA COUNTY
Environmental Services Department
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Maricopa County issues Carbon Monoxide High Air Pollution Advisory #1

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's carbon monoxide (CO) monitor recorded 126 on the Pollution Standard Index (PSI) for the eight hour average, or 10.5 parts per million, at the Grand Avenue site today. Along with CO, Maricopa County has seen an increase in PM-10 levels. Furthermore, a high-pressure system has been lingering over the state, causing the inversion layer to intensify. Additionally, the National Weather Service has reported that they have issued an air stagnation advisory that will remain in effect until 10 a.m. Wednesday, December 1, 1999.

Today's CO levels are currently unhealthful. While the numbers indicate an exceedance, air quality technicians are verifying the readings from the monitoring site. The MCESD uses best judgment when declaring a CO High Air Pollution Advisory.

Maricopa County Environmental Services Department has issued a CO High Air Pollution Advisory that will remain in effect from 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 30, 1999, to 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 1, 1999, for the entire Phoenix Metropolitan area.

Health Effects: CO is a tasteless, odorless, invisible gas that acts as an oxygen deprivation agent. Healthy individuals may not experience physical symptoms; however, people with heart conditions and other chronic illness may experience some difficulty breathing. Those individuals should minimize outdoor activity and take precautions. CO comes primarily from vehicles. However, wood fires, gasoline lawnmowers and garden equipment also contribute to the pollution.

Tips: Maricopa County is encouraging citizens to make the following choices to help reduce pollution.

- Combine trips.
- Keep your tires inflated to proper levels and your car tuned.
- Change your oil every 3000 to 5000 miles.
- Reduce driving on days when there is poor air quality.
- Ride the bus, carpool or telecommute.
- Don't burn firewood in fireplaces or woodstove unless it is an EPA-approved fireplace or woodstove.
- To find a carpool or vanpool partner, call Valley Metro at 602-262-7433 or register online at www.valleymetro.maricopa.gov.

For more information on CO High Air Pollution Advisories, call the Maricopa County Air Quality Update at 602-506-6400 or for up-to-date air quality visit www.maricopa.gov/sbeap/airday.htm, or for Spanish or English call the Clean Air Hotline at 1-800-CLEAN-UP. To report environmental complaints, call 602-506-6616.